

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (Currently amended): An authenticating system for determining the authenticity of a product, said system comprising:

an authenticator having a processing module storing authenticating data and a separate stored data;

a product having stored product data;

an interface device for extracting the product data from the product, said interface device sending the product data to said authenticator;

said processing module combining the product data with the stored data to create a resultant data, the processing module comparing the authenticating data to the product data of said product resultant data;

whereby said authenticator determines that the product is authentic if the product resultant data acceptably compares with the authenticating data.

Claim 2 (Original): The authenticating system of claim 1 wherein the product data is concealed within said product.

Claim 3 (Original): The authenticating system of claim 2 wherein the product data is concealed by providing extraneous data with the product data.

Claim 4 (Original): The authenticating system of claim 1 wherein said interface device may extract a plurality of different types of data from said product.

Claim 5 (Currently amended): The authenticating system of claim 1 wherein the product resultant data acceptably compares with the authenticating data by comparing a range for which the product resultant data may fall within.

Claim 6 (Currently amended): The authenticating system of claim 1 wherein the product resultant data acceptably compares with the authenticating data by comparing a distinct value for which the product resultant data must attain.

Claim 7 (Currently amended): The authenticating system of claim 1 wherein:
said authenticator has an information storage module storing supplemental data;
said supplemental data being used in conjunction with the product resultant data to compare with the authenticating data.

Claim 8 (Currently amended): The authenticating system of claim 1 wherein said authenticator emits a visual signal to indicate that the product resultant data acceptably compares with the authenticating data.

Claim 9 (Currently amended): The authenticating system of claim 1 wherein said authenticator emits an aural signal to indicate that the product resultant data acceptably compares with the authenticating data.

Claim 10 (Currently amended): The authenticating system of claim 1 wherein said authenticator emits a signal to indicate that the product resultant data does not acceptably compare with the authenticating data.

Claim 11 (Original): The authenticating system of claim 1 wherein the authenticator includes means to destroy the authenticating data if the authenticator is opened incorrectly.

Claim 12 (Currently amended): A method of determining an authenticity of a product, said method comprising the steps of:

programming an authenticator with authenticating data used to determine the authenticity of the product;

storing separate stored data within the authenticator;

extracting product data from the product by an interface device;

transmitting the product data to the authenticator;

combining the stored data with the product data to form a resultant data;

comparing, by the authenticator, the authenticating data with the product resultant data extracted from the product; and

determining, by the authenticator, if the product resultant data acceptably compares with the authenticating data.

Claim 13 (Canceled)

Claim 14 (Currently amended): The method of determining an authenticity of a product of claim 12 further comprising, after the step of determining, by the authenticator, if the product resultant data acceptably compares with the authenticating data, the step of sending a signal to indicator the authenticity of the product.

Claim 15 (Currently amended): The method of determining an authenticity of a product of claim 12 wherein the step of determining, by the authenticator, if the product resultant data acceptably compares with the authenticating data includes determining if the product resultant data falls within a specific range of values of authenticating data.

Claim 16 (Original): The method of determining an authenticity of a product of claim 12 wherein the authenticating data is a distinct value.

Claim 17 (Original): The method of determining an authenticity of a product of claim 12 further comprising, before the step of programming an authenticator, the step of concealing product data within the product.

Claim 18 (Original): The method of determining an authenticity of a product of claim 17 wherein the step of concealing product data includes providing extraneous data to conceal the product data.

Claim 19 (Original): The method of determining an authenticity of a product of claim 12 further comprising, after the step of programming an authenticator, the step of destroying the authenticating data if the authenticator is incorrectly opened.

Claim 20 (Added): The authenticating system of claim 1 wherein the product data includes a scent affixed to the product, the interface device determining the scent, the scent being combined with the stored data to form the resultant data.

Claim 21 (Added): The authenticating system of claim 1 wherein the product data includes a capsule having a specific temperature, the interface device measuring the temperature within the capsule to retrieve a specific temperature value from the capsule and combining the specific temperature value with the stored data to form the resultant data.